

the slide to Mr. G. J. Prince, a student at the Zoology Department of the University of Western Australia. The animal was identified as a Pygmy Possum, *Cercartetus concinnus*. They were only found among sacks still hanging on the fence and never in those that had blown to the ground; and furthermore, only along a portion of the fence which was adjacent to a few yate gums, although the lines of sacks stretched for some distance beyond in both directions.

When I visited the spot in early March it was extremely bare after heavy grazing, and did not seem to present much potential as a feeding ground for Pygmy Possums. However, Mr. Moir informed me that the yate gums would have been in flower at the time of year when he discovered them, and I think the insects attracted to these flowers might well be a suitable food source to support the number found. No attempts have been made to catch the animals at any other time of year, but I would suggest that anyone trying this method should take into account potential food sources when siting the sacks.

—A. BAYNES, Department of Zoology, University of Western Australia.

Inland and South-eastern Occurrences of the Spotted Scrub-Wren.—In Western Australia the Spotted Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis maculatus*) is mainly distributed in the karri-jarrali forest and along the coastal fringe from the Wooramel River and Bernier Island to Israelite Bay. Inland and east of this stronghold its distribution is patchy because of discontinuities in the occurrence of suitable habitat. Inland localities where the species has been recorded are Ebano, Perenjori, Moora, Wongan Hills, Bunketch, Kweda, Broomchill, Lake Grace, Stirling Range and Lake Magenta (Mayr and Wolk, *W. Aust. Nat.*, 4, 1953: 66; Serventy and Whittell, *Birds of Western Australia*, 1967, 4th edit.). In view of the paucity of known inland occurrences, some additional ones are reported.

On 14 November 1965 P. S. Stone directed me to a locality, about 30 miles east of Wickopin, where he had seen some Spotted Scrub-Wrens a few months earlier. The locality was a gravel-stone hill covered with dense, stunted heath, which in the area occupied by the scrub-wrens consisted of *Dryandra cirsoides* as the main component, *Melaleuca* spp, *Hakea* spp, *Calothamnus* sp., *Casuarina* sp., *Baeckea* sp. and *Dodonaea* sp. and was dense down to the ground. Two groups, an adult pair and two first-year birds, were traced by their scolding calls and animated song. I rendered the song as a rapid "tsi-tsi-tsi-tsi-tsi-hec-hec-hec" with each alternative note in the first segment higher pitched than the rest. The Mallee Heath-Wren (*Hylacola cauta*) occurred in the same general area but preferred the dense low heath where the ground was open beneath the foliage.

On 15 November 1965 I found a pair of Spotted Scrub-Wrens 2 miles east of Narrogin, on a gravel-stone hill vegetated with jarrah-wandoo woodland having a dense understorey of *Banksia ilicifolia* and dwarf *Dryandra cirsoides*. The scrub-wrens inhabited the *Banksia-Dryandra* association where the foliage was dense down to ground level.

Though the eastern limit of the Spotted Scrub-Wren is usually given as Israelite Bay, suitable habitat occurs on the south coast much further eastwards. In fact the species was recorded on the coast at Eucla by McGilp (*Emu*, 35, 1935: 105), but this was overlooked by Mayr and Wolk (*op. cit.*) and Serventy and Whittell (*op. cit.*, 1962, 3rd edit). I have seen it at other localities in the coastal strip east of Israelite Bay. On 30 January 1966 I saw several pairs of scrub-wrens in the coastal sand-dunes vegetated with *Nitraria schoberi*, *Rhagodia baccata* and *Acacia cyclopis*, south of Mundrabilla homestead. On 6 September 1968 I saw a pair in similar habitat in the coastal dunes at Twilight Cove, and two pairs in dense mallee—*Melaleuca* scrub, a few miles inland.

Specimens of the Spotted Scrub-Wrens collected by me at the Wickopin, Narrogin, Mundrabilla and Twilight Cove localities are now in the Western Australian Museum.

—JULIAN FORD, Lynwood.